Duality
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Preface

One of the most disturbing things in modern-day Christianity is the inconsistent lifestyles of some believers.The double standards practised by some Christians have given all believers a bad report among them that are without.As you read this book, you will see the many areas in which our day-to-day lives fall short of true Christian standards.Then, after you have honestly located yourself, you will be in a better position to climb out of pretense and hypocrisy.I have learnt to be myself, and so should you. There's no need to try and impress anyone. There's no need to try to be like anyone else.It is my prayer that this teaching will go a long way to make our secret lives conform to our public image.

The Dual Life

> *But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;*
>
> *Ephesians 5:3*

God's expectation is that as children of God, no form of sinful living should be found in us. So fornication, uncleanness and the like should never be associated with any Christian.

People who are called Christians and yet live a different lifestyle underneath are guilty of duality. Duality is the state of living a double standard life. It is the state of having two personalities or two natures embodied in one person. It is when you have one lifestyle displayed in public, and the other one shown in private. Such a dual person has one behaviour pattern he exhibits when he comes into public. This is usually to impress the people around. He has another type of behaviour when nobody can see him. For those who claim to be Christians, one lifestyle is displayed in church, and the other, outside of church.Duality encourages the spirit of hypocrisy, the spirit of lies and the spirit of self-deception. One of the greatest forms of deception is self-deception. When you are a fool and you don't know that you are a fool, your situation is worse than a fool who knows that he is a fool!Often, when I counsel people and can get them to understand the problem they are faced with, much of the work is already done. When doctors are able to diagnose the sicknesses of patients, often it means that fifty per cent of the work is done. This is because the doctor now

knows exactly what he is dealing with.Deception is a very dangerous act, which comes about by repeated lying. When you knowingly and continuously lie, you begin to believe the lie. Self-deception occurs when you do something wrong, but repeatedly tell yourself that what you are doing is right.In the end, you will believe when you commit sin, that you are actually doing the right thing. You have done it so many times for so long that, you have convinced yourself it is the right thing.During the dark years of Nazi Germany, the Nazis convinced themselves that killing Jews was right. At a point they believed that the Germans were really a special race which was superior to every other race. They also believed that all their problems were caused by the Jews. Then they came up with what they called the FINAL SOLUTION: How to solve the Jewish problem. They believed in it, preached it, taught it in schools and they gradually eliminated and annihilated as many Jews as possible. They must have believed it with all their hearts, because they killed the Jews consistently. They murdered thousands and thousands of them. The Germans used some of the crudest methods the human brain could possibly devise. In some cases, they made the Jews dig trenches and then told them to line up by these pits. Then they shot all of them in cold blood.If you continue to lie to yourself about something, you will begin to believe that the wrong is right. On the other hand, you also know that right is right. So now you will have two acceptable standards — right is right, and wrong is also right.This is the foundation for double standards and double-dealing, which is the double life — duality!! Unfortunately, there are so many Christians who are two people in one. Some years ago, I used to be a musician and moved around with many other musicians. Many of them had two personalities.

When they stood on stage they would sing songs like, Amazing

Grace, I Love You Lord, and many other beautiful songs. But if you met them off stage, their lives were something else. It got to a point when I was no longer impressed with any Gospel singer. There are many singers and choristers who sing beautifully, but have horrible private lives. They have two lives! One life is evident when they sing and lift up their voices to the Lord. The other life is portrayed when they are off stage. Indeed, some of these singers can even bring you to tears. But then, when you get closer, you would wonder whether these people are even Christians.Your life on stage should conform with the one in private. If someone comes to live with you, he should discover that the character on stage is the same as the one at home. As a pastor, I know I could easily fall into a dual life. Therefore, l consciously check the things that are private, which nobody knows about. I do my best to make my private life line up with the Bible. What I say and what I do must tally. One dangerous thing for a pastor to do is to have a double life. Some ministers would even admonish the congregation not to copy their lifestyles! My father once said a priest told him to do what he said, but not what he did.“Do what I say, but don’t do what I do,” he told his parish.If you are in a church where the pastors say one thing, but turn around to do another, then you must leave that church! It is a dangerous place because the pastor is practising duality!

Examples of Duality

Now I want to show you several examples of the dual life.

Samson was a perfect example of someone with a dual life. His dual behaviour was so classic that every Christian must learn something from him. I sometimes like to call the phenomenon of duality “Samsonism”.

1. Separated and unequally yoked

That was the state of Samson—he had a religious, separated side of him, which was shown by the fact that he never cut his hair. Yet, he was unequally yoked to the things of the world.There are Christians who appear separated from the world, but yet live in sin.Samson’s life was one that was separated and yet he was entangled in the world. He was separated because he was a Nazarite—that is, someone who was not supposed to live like the rest of the people. He was unique, in the sense that he was not supposed to drink, or cut his hair. He didn’t cut his hair, and it was a sign of his consecration to God. All those around him thought he had nothing to do with the world. It was an open sign to everyone that Samson was a Nazarite, separated unto God. He never drank, and everybody knew him in that way.At the same time, he was practising another kind of quiet evil, by linking himself with the devil and the world. These two things were going on in his life at the same time.This was a man who would not cut his hair, who claimed to be charismatic, who was wearing the Nazarite hair; a sign that he was separated to God. However, at the same time, he wanted to have an unbeliever wife (Judges 14: 2-3). He was a man anointed of

God, yet he wanted to play with worldly pleasure.And there are many people doing that today, including pastors! There are many pastors who have two personalities and two lives. There are also many church members who have two personalities.There is the personality that is displayed when they walk through the church gate: holier than everybody else. Once they get out of the church gates into their homes or offices however, they move into their other lives. This is a different thing altogether. Some of you reading this book are just like that. You are in the church and you claim to be born again. Your friends think that you are a believer, but on the other hand, you are playing around with the world. Your best friends are unbelievers, which makes you just like Samson. The amazing thing is, it is not that you are even in an ordinary youth or charity group. You are in a born-again church where you hear life-changing sermons over and over again, and yet your best friends are unbelievers. If your favourite friends at school and at work are openly declared non-Christians, you have a big problem!There was a man who was talking about some of our charismatic churches. He boasted, “Every Sunday, I pick up a girl from these charismatic churches. I just have to pass by the junction after church on Sunday and give one of them a lift, and I’ll have one of the so-called born-again sisters to sleep with.” Many years ago Rev. Sackey, one of my associate ministers, was the manager of a hotel. One day, a lady came there with a Lebanese man. They checked into a room together and were there for about an hour. My dear pastor was sitting at the reception when this lady came out of the hotel room shouting in tongues—she was a tongue-talking born-again Christian! Yet on the quiet, she was having affairs with men in hotels. She is likely to be seen on Sunday in a well-known charismatic church, lifting up her hands in worship. She is playing with God.Samson also played with

God. He wore the long hair, which was a sign that he was a member of a Christian church, but he still dabbled in fornication with the world. Apparently separated, but also with the world. Spiritual Duality is a condition which predisposes to fornication and adultery. Do not play any double games with God!I can just see Samson with his long hair as he walked through town. Everybody knew that meant that he was an anointed man of God, separated unto God, walking in the things of God and a member of the church. However, he wanted to marry an unbeliever. When he told his father who he wanted to marry, he asked, “Is there no woman in Israel you can marry?” Samson replied, “Oh no, this is the girl I want.”How can you even think of marrying a complete outsider when you know you are a believer separated unto God? It is dangerous to lie to yourself that the wrong things you do are right.

2. Spiritual and carnal

Samson was a spiritual person and yet he was carnal. At certain times he gave the impression that he was very spiritual. At other times, it was surprising how carnal he could be. The contrast is such that you wonder if this carnality and spirituality could be in one person?

> *...the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times...*
>
> *Judges 13:25*

The Spirit was upon the man and yet he was carnal. He was so spiritual that he was the spiritual leader of Israel for twenty years! However, we realize that he had a woman problem: He was a playboy although he had the Spirit of God. I remember a man of God whom I respected very much. He also used to play this kind of game. He was a

powerful preacher, and I was really moved every time he ministered. Yet, this man was also playing around with many of the women in his church. It is said that one day, when he was fornicating with one of the women, she asked him, “So, after doing this how will you be able to preach tomorrow?” He replied, “When I sin like this, then the anointing comes even more.”There are people who commit fornication just before going to church. And really, it does not make any difference to them. Some Christians go a step further to fornicate with people whose names they don’t even know! Such people could even be the most expressive when they are in church. They are spiritual and at the same time carnal.Look at Samson; he loved to go out for prostitutes. He slept with one woman after the other. He did all this, in spite of the fact that the Spirit of God was upon him. For twenty solid years he was in the ministry, and yet he was plagued with these problems!

3. Mighty in ministry and weak in private life

It is dangerous to be both mighty and weak. If your pastor knows that you are weak, he can pray for you but if you pretend to be mighty, how can he know that you need help? If you are mighty, nobody will spend time to counsel or minister to you. But if you show that you are weak, attention will be given to you.If you are weak, but present yourself as strong, you are preventing your own deliverance. You are covering what needs help.One day, a lady went to see a doctor, a gynaecologist. When the lady rose to leave the consulting room, the doctor asked, “Is that really the reason why you came to see me?”She had gone for consultation without divulging the real problem. The doctor had a feeling that there was more to it than met the eye, and that there was something that she couldn’t bring herself to say. This

was actually the case.When you appear strong even though you are weak, nobody can help you.Then when you confess, “I’m weak, I need help,” the mighty people in ministry can come to your aid.As a pastor, I have come to see that there are people I don’t particularly need to visit, because they are strong! But then sometimes there is a weak one, and I have to rush there because he needs attention. When you look strong like Samson, you won’t get any attention.Samson was mighty in ministry, killing thousands. At the same time he was a weak man when it came to his private life.He was mighty publicly but the opposite in private. If you had the opportunity to visit him at home, you would see a different life altogether.The book of Judges, chapter 16, and verse 3, recounts that he carried the gates of the city on his shoulders. What a mighty man! In this sense he was not weak. He was so mighty that he killed one thousand people with a jaw bone.However, Judges Chapter 16, verses 14 to 17 portray Samson as being morally weak. This allowed Delilah to take advantage of him. She overcame the mighty man because he was also a weak man!The Philistines recognized this weakness also, and capitalized on it to eventually conquer Samson.Are you both mighty and weak? My brother, please don’t be both mighty and weak.Many public officers and officials in many nations are like that. In public life they look so dignified and so respectful. When they are interviewed on television, they sound so powerful but in their private lives, they are morally and maritally weak.

4. Nasty and nice

There are some people who are very nice when they are in public, but are extremely nasty when they are at home. Their spouses and children know them to be very impatient and abusive, but those

outside the home see them as the sweetest people on earth. I have met many husbands who complain that the way their wives speak to the pastors make them feel that their spouses respect and love their pastors more than their own husbands.The contrast is such that they cannot help but notice the humility and gentleness, which their wives reserve for their pastors and outsiders. Such a wife or husband has a dual life.They have two different natures: the nasty nature, which they display in private (usually those close to them have to endure it), and the nice nature which they display in the open.In fact, some of the nicest people are also the nastiest. Perhaps, it is a reflex to camouflage their nastiness at home. Such people take extra precautions to appear nice to outsiders, especially those they meet for the first time.

5. Mature and yet childish

Samson judged Israel for twenty years. It takes maturity to be a judge, and to be able to lead a nation for this number of years. Looking at Samson's life, you may get the impression that he was just lustful, chasing one prostitute after another. However, he was a judge for twenty years. That is maturity in ministry. Most charismatic churches in my country Ghana, have not been in the ministry for twenty years, yet Samson was! However, Samson had another side of his personality, which made him behave like a child. In Judges Chapter 15 and verse 1, he caught three hundred foxes and tied their tails in pairs. Then he set them on fire and sent them into the Philistines' farms. This was Samson's revenge on his father-in-law for giving his bride to his best man.His behaviour was childish. It is a child who would think of running around to catch foxes, tie their tails and light them up with fire. There are simpler ways of burning a farm. The man was clearly childish in his thinking, and yet at the same time,

he was a very mature man who gave reasonable judgements for at least twenty years.There are many Christians like that. Their level of understanding of God's Word is excellent; yet they are so childish. A child is very unsteady and unstable. A child cannot sit at one place for a long time. There are many childish Christians who despite their knowledge of God's Word, cannot settle down in any church. Today, you will meet them in this church, the next time, you will find them in another church. They just cannot belong anywhere. They are unsteady and unstable, yet they have great knowledge. It takes maturity to belong to a church.One Sunday evening, I tuned in to a Christian talk show (on the radio) on my way home from church (I usually leave church very late). That night, the discussion was on churches and pastors. As I listened to the discussion I marvelled at how wise and mature the arguments sounded. Then I suddenly recognised the voice of one of the contributors. He was one of the most unstable Christians I have ever known. He had once been a member of my church, but had since moved to at least two other churches. This fellow had such wise comments to make on the behaviour of pastors and churches, yet he was like a child — unable to belong to any church for a long period. Perhaps, he knows too much to belong anywhere. He is mature and yet childish.Another feature of a child is that it cries a lot. Children are often easily hurt, and they need a lot of time and attention. In the church setting, anybody who behaves in this manner is considered a child.Such people sometimes know a lot of Scriptures and have been Christians for a long time, yet they still get easily hurt and need much attention. A mature person doesn't seek attention, but rather gives it.Maturity is needed in every facet of our lives. It takes maturity for a man to say, "This is the woman I am going to marry and no one else." It takes a mature man to settle down with one of the many beautiful

ladies he sees around him. That is why people respect married men. It takes maturity to settle down. A child cannot settle. That is why a man who does not want to settle may not be regarded as a man yet. He is still a boy. Are you mature and yet childish?

Common Traits of Duality

Once again, let me give you more illustrations of a person with two distinct personalities.

1. Loyal and slanderous

> *Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double tongued...*
>
> *1 Timothy 3:8*

There are people who claim to be loyal and yet are very slanderous and double-tongued. They have two tongues: one speaks good and the other evil. The Bible describes duality of the tongue as being double-tongued. There is only one animal that seems to have two tongues—the snake!Some years ago, I was in a fellowship meeting when the pastor took a second offering. I got angry and complained to a sister sitting by me, but the look she gave me shut me up. Immediately, my heart smote me. After the service, I went up to the pastor and confessed to him what I had said. He was very surprised. Stretching out his hands, he told me God was going to use me. I could have complained bitterly about the man of God as I sat there. Then after the service, I could have approached him with a big smile, telling him how much I enjoyed the sermon. To him, I would have sounded very loyal but I would have been "stabbing him in the back", pretending to have a loyal tongue.A person with two tongues is a follower of the devil, who slanders the saints before God. The devil is described as:

> *...the accuser of our brethren...which accused them*

> *before our God day and night.*

Revelation12:10

2. Worshipping with your mouth, yet rebelling in your heart.

God is sick of duality and of all forms of pretense. When the Israelites practised duality, God became so angry that He refused to accept their sacrifice. He queried,

> *To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me…Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me...I cannot away with; it…*

Isaiah 1:11, 13

God was tired of their hypocrisy, and told them that He would not heed their prayers because after praying they turned and did evil. God said, “Away with it! I cannot, and I do not want it.”Truly, there are so many Christians who sing, lift up their hands, and tell the Lord that they love Him—but these are often empty words.Many women feel dejected when they realize that the man who claimed to love them had been lying all along. Some women become so heartbroken that they cannot believe the words of any man for the rest of their lives.If a woman finds out that the love of her life has other girlfriends, she will not take it lightly. When such a man returns to her with his sweet words, she may very well explode!This scenario can be likened to the way God feels about those who literally live in sin, but come to church with all those beautiful words and songs. God does not take it lightly when your heart is far from Him but to those around, you appear to be serving Him in earnest.

3. Goodness and badness

The dual person exhibits both goodness and badness.

> *...your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away.*
>
> *Hosea 6:4*

The morning cloud and the early dew are things that appear for a short while and then vanish almost immediately. Some people would know the dual person to be bad and wicked. Another group of people would know him to be a very good person.If you went to the home of a person living a dual life, the members of his family would readily supply you with tales of his evil deeds. But if you also went to talk to his colleagues at work or in the church, they would tell you of his goodness and kindness. The goodness of such a person is temporary, and is only revealed to a selected few. Those living dual lives might appear to be good, but their goodness is short-lived.

4. Men pleaser and God pleaser

Is it possible to please God and men at the same time? Paul states,

> *...for if l yet pleased men, l should not be the servant of Christ.*
>
> *Galatians 1:10*

According to Paul, if he pleases men, he cannot please Christ. It is as simple as that! There is no way you can please men and think or believe you are pleasing God. Walking with the Lord on this long road of ministry, I have had to do many things that were often not pleasing to men. I simply could not please men. When I responded to the call

of God on my life, I displeased my parents. Think about it! You sent your child to school. He did well and qualified as a doctor. Would you be pleased if he told you he had decided to become a pastor instead? At the time I took this decision, my church was very small and unimpressive.I remember my father-in-law offered to speak to the Hospital Administrator to get me transferred to a new department because I had been posted to the mortuary. My family thought that perhaps I didn't want to work in such a place. But no! I was going into the ministry because I wanted to obey and please God.Thank God, they now admire the church. If you want to please men, you will never be a servant of Christ.To avoid living a dual life, you may sometimes have to go contrary to man's opinion, and just please God. If your parents want you to marry an unbeliever just because he is wealthy, you will have to go contrary to their desire, because the Bible commands us not to marry unbelievers!Your family may not be happy, but God will be pleased with you. Someone who is living a dual life will have to bend the rules to please his family.Are you pleasing men or pleasing God?

5. Impressive and unimpressive.

I have realized that as human beings, most of us want people to be impressed with us. We wish the people around us would be impressed with what we have; our cars, our appearance etc. The person living a dual life will do and say everything possible to impress his friends and those around him. Sometimes, people go to the extent of going for bank loans in order to live a certain kind of lifestyle to impress friends.Many people live above their means because they want to present a certain image of themselves. The person living a dual life may be regarded as wealthy and living in luxury—when in reality, he

is living on borrowed glory. Soon his creditors will catch up with him, and the image he has built around himself will come crumbling down! That is when the people he has deceived will be disappointed and unimpressed with him.It is good to be liberated from that constant desire to impress others!If I had tried to impress people, my church, Lighthouse Chapel International would not have gotten to this stage. I would have spent our income on impressive cars, clothes and lifestyle, trying to impress those on the outside. There is no need to impress anyone. If you are a worthy person, people will get to know who you are, what you are, and what you are made up of! It is just a matter of time!Do not be impressive on the outside and unimpressive on the inside.

6. Good start, poor finish

In the book of Judges, chapter 13, we observe the beginning of Samson's ministry but in the book of Judges we see his end.

> *And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines...*
>
> *Judges 16:30*

When Samson began his ministry, the Spirit anointed him for service. There are many people who started so well. They were anointed but because they lived dual lives, just like Samson, they died in the midst of demons and their enemies.There was a man I knew about, who God raised up to perform spectacular miracles. Some of the miracles were just beyond human understanding. I watched this video clip, in which a man paralysed with cancer of the spine was healed by this minister. Being a medical doctor, I understand what cancer of the spine means, especially one that makes you unable to walk.It was amazing to see a totally paralysed man suffering from

cancer, healed, and to see him walk, jump and run before our eyes.However, at the end of his life, this man of God who was so used by God, divorced his wife and became a drunk. He died alone in a motel, apparently of some liver disease. He was just like Samson. He started well but ended badly. What is the use of starting well and ending in the midst of demons?Samson died in the midst of unbelievers; he died in the midst of his enemies. He was killed by the enemy! It will never be well with us if we play a double game with God. God is not blind! God is not a fool! God is not a man! God cannot be mocked. He sees what we are doing.

> *The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.*
>
> *Proverbs 15:3*

Your pastor is human, so he may not see you sinning. You can even lie to him. There are many Christians in church who have lied to their pastors and have gotten away with it, but God is not a man. He is the One you are dealing with. You cannot lie to God!Duality is a cursed life and dual people never end well. They die in disgrace!Let us decide not to live dual lives. May the good Lord help us all!!